

Statement of Exceptions
FY 2012 USDA Report

One IACUC approved protocol has two exceptions. One exception permits the withholding of systemic analgesia after minor surgical procedure, because the use of systemic analgesia would introduce a detrimental confounding variable during data collection. A local anesthetic is used at the surgical site. Historically, no signs of distress or discomfort have been observed in these animals after this minor surgical procedure

The second exception permits prolonged restraint. Data collection for this protocol requires that the animal is awake and not moving. The animal is placed in a comfortable natural posture not to exceed 4 to 10 hours. Animals are acclimated to this procedure through training and are continuously observed for the entire duration of prolonged restraint. At the first signs of restiveness, the data collection ceases and the animal is returned to its home cage. Six rabbits were used for this work during FY 2012.

Another IACUC approved protocol has three exceptions. One exception allows for prolonged restraint to permit accurate neuronal recordings for data collection. The animal is placed in a comfortable natural posture for data collection periods not to exceed two hours. Animals are acclimated to this procedure through training and are continuously observed for the entire duration of prolonged restraint. At the first signs of restiveness, data collection ends and the animal is returned to its home cage.

A second exception permits the use of a non-dedicated surgical facility to perform major survival surgery. The nature of the research requires the use of audio testing devices immediately after the surgical procedure. These devices are located within an audio testing laboratory. The surgery is performed under aseptic conditions in the audio testing laboratory and historically no complications or adverse effects have been attributed to the use of this facility.

The third exception allows for multiple major survival surgeries because the multiple procedures are related components of the approved protocol. Historically, the animals tolerate the surgeries well. One rabbit was used for this work during FY 2012.